Cesario and Honesty

In the play *Twelfth Night* ***by*** William Shakespeare we meet a young woman named Viola, she finds herself in the middle of a shipwreck in which she loses her twin brother, once reaching Illyria she disguises herself with the help of the ship’s captain to become Cesario and work for the Duke Orsino.

Cesario has a problem from the moment he reaches Illyria, he is actually a girl; its understandable how dressing up as a man would be beneficial, men were seen as the people in power in the early 1960s, but can you imagine how hard it would be to keep up that lie for a long time?

There’s another reason why Olivia could have thought about being a man, she probably didn’t think she was young enough to marry, she could have thought that her time was long gone and that it was easier to work as man and get jobs that would pay her well, but as the story develops we find out she has other motives to keep the truth hidden, she is in love with Duke Orsino, but he is in love with the Olivia which would make her be in a love triangle since she accidentally makes Olivia fall in love with her the first time they meet.

Things turn out for the worse when her lost brother Sebastian comes into the picture looking for Viola and ends up falling for Olivia, and poor Olivia thinks that Sebastian is Viola and ends up marrying him instead, it doesn’t make things better when the other captain of the boat who was helping Sebastian gets captured and thinks of Viola as a traitor for pretending to not know him; when Orsino finds about Cesario’s and Olivia’s marriage he is furious and says he will kill him for stealing the woman he loves. At the end though Sebastian shows up at the scene and the two twins meet and explain the misunderstanding to everyone.

From the moment Viola started being dishonest it could be predicted how bad things would turn out for her, after all, lying to the man you love about being a guy, and making his love interest fall in love with you is not a very bright idea, but one could argue that if she didn’t dress up as a guy sand work for Orsino she probably wouldn’t have survived in Illirya or have her happy ending after going through so much misunderstanding.

At the end of this play Viola’s dishonesty was forgiven and understood but if this wasn’t a Shakespearian comedy she could have ended up in quite a bad situation.